

BARMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE
YEAR
1946

To the BARMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

It is my honour and privilege to present the Annual Report upon the Sanitary Conditions of the Area for the Year ended 31st December, 1946.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area of District	1347 acres.
Estimated Resident Population (As estimated by the Register General)	2318
Approximate summer population	15,000
Population Census 1921	3553
Population Census 1931	2645
Number of inhabited houses end of 1946	851
Rateable Value	£15,976
Sum represented by a penny rate	£60. 9s. Od.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS INCLUDING THE CHIEF OCCUPATION OF THE INHABITANTS AND THE INFLUENCE OF ANY PARTICULAR OCCUPATION ON PUBLIC HEALTH

Barmouth is a popular sea-side resort, and the inhabitants of the town for the most part make their livelihood by letting their houses to visitors during the summer season. The only industry in the area is a small light engineering works, and a chemical factory, employing approximately 40 persons.

The winter temperature is very mild.

Live birth Rate for England and Wales	1946	19.1
Death Rate for England and Wales	1946	11.5

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Officers of the Authority

Medical: One part time Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector: One Sanitary Inspector.

- Holds:-
1. Certificate R.S.I. & S.I.J.B.
 2. Certificate R.S.I. as Meat & Food Inspector.
 3. Certificate R.S.I. as Smoke Inspector.
 4. Certificate R.S.I. in Sanitary Science as applied to Public Works and Buildings.
 5. Certificate - Membership of the Institution of Sanitary Engineers.

Laboratory Facilities

The examination of swabs from all suspected cases of Diphtheria is carried out by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service, Cardiganshire General Hospital, Aberystwyth.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Infectious Cases. There is no Isolation Hospital in the Area. Cases are usually sent to Isolation Hospitals in Caernarvonshire and Cardiganshire.

Non-Infectious Cases. A Motor Ambulance service is available and controlled by a Joint Committee of the Barmouth Urban District Council and the Dolgelley Urban and Rural Districts Councils. This ambulance is stationed at Dolgelley.

There is also a Red Cross Ambulance Service stationed at Barmouth. This service is administered by a Joint Committee of the Red Cross Society and the Barmouth Urban District Council. Considerable use is made of these facilities which are much appreciated and doing excellent work in the area.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	45	22	23
Illegitimate	4	-	4
<u>Still Births</u>			
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
<u>Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	3	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Rates per 1000 of Estimated Population

General Death Rate	17.25
Total Tuberculosis Death Rate	1.29
"Pthisis" Death Rate	1.29
Cancer Death Rate	1.72
Birth Rate	21.13
Still Birth Rate	-
Scarlet Fever Death Rate	-
Diphtheria Death Rate	.43

Rates per 1000 Total Births (Live and Still Births)

Still Birth Rate	-
Maternity Mortality Total	-
Sepsis	-
Other Forms	-

Rates per 1000 Live Births

Infant Mortality Total	-
Legitimate Infants	-
Illegitimate Infants	-
Diarrhoea under two years	-

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE URBAN AREA

The Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor reports on the circumstances of the area as follows:-

Water Supply

The water supply to the district is obtained from Lake Bodlyn, which is situated $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles North East of Barmouth in the rural district of Dolgelley, and having an area of gathering ground of about 900 acres. The capacity of the reservoir is 102,500,000 gallons.

This lake supplies a service reservoir at Eithynfynnydd which has a capacity of 141,427 gallons. The supply pipe to the service reservoir in its present condition is not sufficient to keep the reservoir full, especially during the peak periods in August. The 6" trunk main from the impounding reservoir to the service

reservoir needs duplicating immediately below the dam for a distance of approximately half a mile.

A Booster Plant is installed at Llwynnwcs to raise the pressure of the water to the higher levels of the town. There is also a chlorination plant installed near the Booster Plant, but this is out of order at the present time.

Careful examination is made of the condition of the dam and the pipe lines to Barmouth each month. The Bodlyn dam can be considered water-tight.

During the months of July and August when the summer population is greatest the water pressure in certain parts of the town gets very low, and consequently some areas are without water during the greater part of the day. The water mains in the area Marine Road to Minynor Hotel are badly corroded and require renewing with a larger diameter pipe which will also serve the area to be occupied by the new council houses.

Drainage and Sewerage

The condition of the sewers and drainage in the town is fairly satisfactory, apart from the sewer outfalls at the north end of the town and also at the Harbour. Both these outfalls are in an extremely bad state, are broken, and the effluent instead of being discharged at a safe point in the sea is discharged on the foreshore during low-tide, and in the case of the northern outfall almost on to the promenade steps. Complaints are continually being received of the smell in this neighbourhood. The Council have instructed their engineer to prepare schemes of improvement to these outfalls, and also to prepare a new sewerage scheme for the rural portion of the district in Llanaber.

Rivers and Streams

There was no pollution of rivers and streams during the year 1946.

Closet Accommodation

Water carriage system is in use throughout the town.

Number of Water Closets	1154
Number of Pail Closets	17
Privies or other -do-	12
Number of Closets serving more than one house	10

Public Cleansing

House refuse is collected in the town daily, and in the outlying districts once a week. Most of the houses and premises are provided with proper covered receptacles.

The refuse is deposited and buried in a suitable place within the district.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area

Number of Inspections	182
Notices Served	Formal 5
	Informal 18

Inspections

Bakehouses	12
Cowsheds	8
Dairies	Nil
Milkshops	Nil
Ice Cream Premises	36
Fried Fish Premises	11
Factories	8
Restaurants	18
Government Slaughter House	86

Choked drains found	37
Notices served re defective drains	12

Shop's Act 1934 and Public Health Act 1936

No action has been necessary during the year.

Camping Sites

1. The number of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during the year 1946..... 3
2. The number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936... 1
3. The estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season 1946..... 4/500

Smoke Abatement

There is no industry in the area. Verbal action and interview with the manager of one of the local laundries was necessary during the year, and an improvement was made at these premises.

A considerable amount of smoke is issued by the railway engines during shunting on the sidings which are situated in the centre of the town, but it has not been necessary to take any action.

Swimming Baths

There are no swimming baths in the area.

Eradication of Bed bugs

As the Council are not the owners of houses no work of this nature has been carried out on council property. Three private dwelling-houses have been fumigated and treated with Zaldecide during the year 1946.

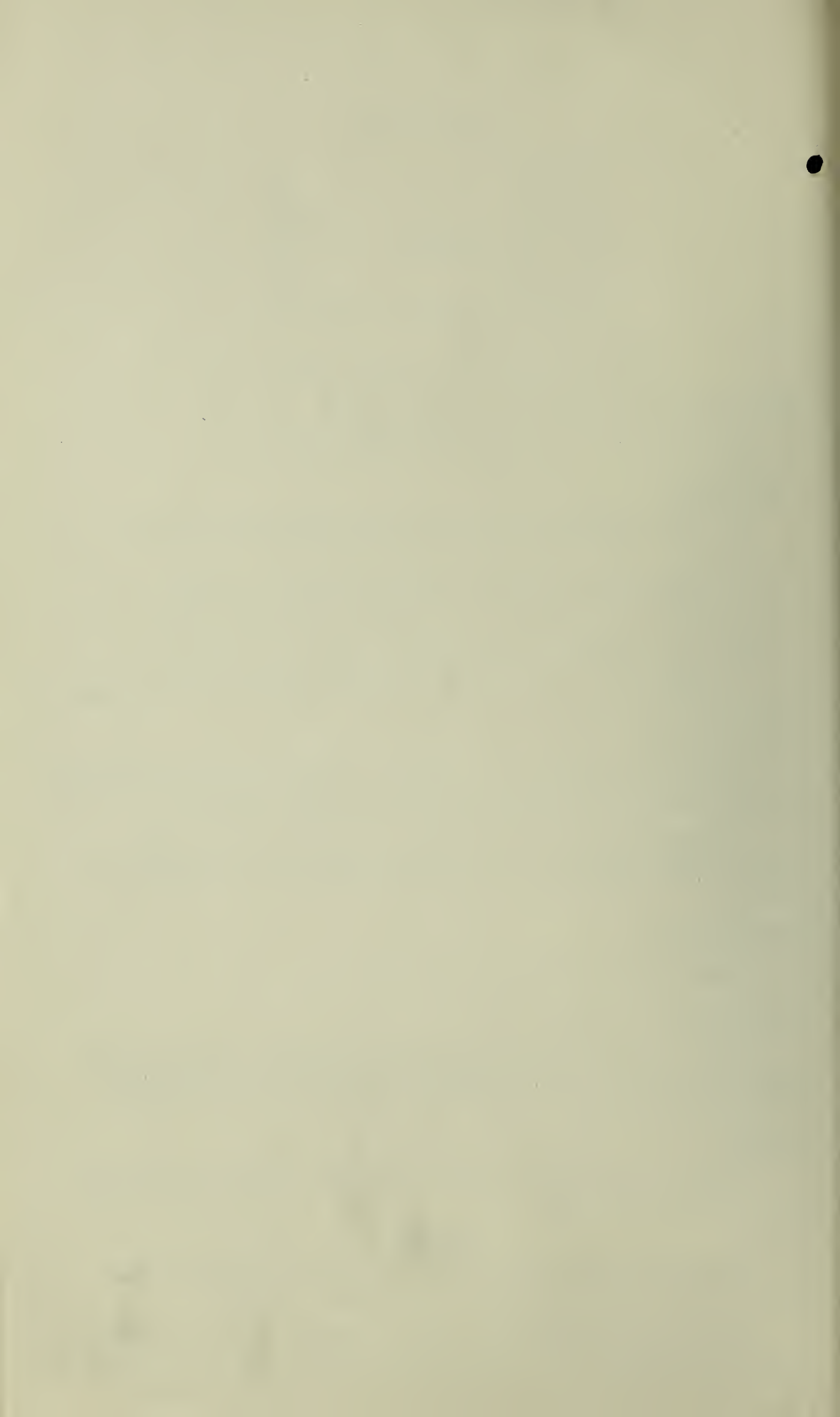
Schools

There are two schools in the town, the sanitary condition of both being satisfactory.

HOUSING

The Council have now in course of erection twenty six new houses, which should be ready for occupation in 1947.

The sanitary condition of about 90 houses in the old part of Barmouth is far below the requirements of the Housing Acts 1936, and there is an urgent need for demolishing some of these properties which lack some, if not all the facilities of modern houses.



Dampness, lack of light and ventilation is prevalent, and there is a complete lack of yard space, on the houses built on the rock side, with no room to store a bin in many cases.

A number of the larger houses have been converted into flats, and quite a large number of people are living in rooms. There is a great need for houses in the town as has been shown by the number of applicants for the new council houses.

One new house has been built by private enterprise during the year.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year:-

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|---|-----|
| (1) | (a) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts. | 61 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purposes. | 131 |
| (2) | (a) | Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925. | Nil |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose. | Nil |
| (3) | | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. | 192 |
| (4) | | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respect reasonably fit for human habitation. | Nil |

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notice:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	Nil
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:-

- | | | | |
|-----|--|---|-----|
| (a) | <u>Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.</u> | | |
| | (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | Nil |
| | (2) | Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices | |
| | | (a) By Owners | Nil |
| | | (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | Nil |
| (b) | <u>Proceedings under Public Health Acts</u> | | |
| | (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. | 12 |
| | (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices. | 5 |
| | | (a) By Owners | 3 |
| | | (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | 2 |



- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. Nil
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. Nil
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. Nil
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. Nil
4. Housing Act 1936, Part IV - Overcrowding
- (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year. 12
 - (2) Number of families dwelling therein 14
 - (3) Number of persons dwelling therein 70
 - (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year. Nil
 - (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. Nil
 - (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases. Nil
 - (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

There are three retailers of milk and five producer retailers. Much of the town's milk supply is produced outside the district. This supply is mainly Pasteurised or Tuberculin Tested.

The cowsheds and dairies situated within the district are inspected periodically. Samples of milk for chemical analysis are taken by the County Authority, the Chief Constable acting as Chief Inspector under the Food and Drugs Acts 1938. Samples of other foodstuffs are also examined for adulteration and are taken by the County Authority.

Samples of milk, which are examined bacteriologically and for tuberculosis are taken on behalf of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Meat and Other Foods

There is a Government Slaughter House situated within the district. All animals killed for human consumption within the urban area, and also within the areas between Talsarnau and Dolgelley are slaughtered here, and are inspected at the time of slaughter, or as soon as possible after slaughter.



All the dead meat is inspected in accordance with the recommendations laid down by the Ministry of Health Circular Memo. 62, Food 1922. The Meat Inspector who is a qualified Sanitary Inspector also holds the Meat Inspector's certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. During the absence of the Meat Inspector the meat is examined by the Medical Officer of Health.

Conditions under which the animals are slaughtered are far from satisfactory. The premises are cramped and small. Slaughtering is carried on in view of the hanging carcasses, the hanging room for dead meat and the slaughtering room being combined.

Although a plentiful supply of water is laid on the premises the facilities for boiling water and for sterilising of utensils and knives is far from satisfactory, and is totally inadequate. A scheme of improvement and alteration is contemplated but owing to the shortage of materials and labour these much needed improvements are withheld.

The following carcasses of meat were inspected during 1946, with the resulting condemnations.

A very high proportion of the animals slaughtered in the area are affected with liver flukes, and consequently a high percentage of sheep and cattle livers have to be condemned.

The percentage of tuberculosis in cows is also high, but is no higher than the average condemnations for tuberculosis in cows throughout the country.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number of Animals killed and inspected	229	55	82	3099	18
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u> Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	1	Nil	8	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	68	26	4	225	3
Percentage of the number affected with disease other than tuberculosis	29.6	49.0	4.8	13.7	16.6
<u>Tuberculosis only</u> Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	14	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	25.8	Nil	Nil	Nil

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food

No action was taken during the year.

Shell-fish (Molluscan)

Samples of shell-fish taken from three different points in the estuary showed evidence of pollution. Very little shell-fish is collected in the area at present, and a careful watch is kept of any fishing that may be carried on.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1946

	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-
Diphtheria	1	-	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-
Other diseases generally notifiable	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Other diseases notifiable locally	1	-	-
TOTAL	4	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1946

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
20 -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
25 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
40 -	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
50 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	6	-	1	-	3	-	-	-

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

D.O. WILLIAMS,

Medical Officer of Health.

